

Dear Downtown BID Assessment Ratepayer:

On behalf of the Downtown Business Improvement District Ratepayer Advisory Board of Directors, we thank you for being a part of the network of property and business owners fueling the momentum of downtown Spokane.

By owning property, locating your business and/or living in downtown Spokane, you are part of the Downtown Business Improvement District or BID, managed by the Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) on behalf of the City of Spokane. The BID was initiated by property and business owners to fund enhanced services and programs in the defined BID area, including security, maintenance and cleanliness, beautification and landscaping, marketing and events, business support, urban planning, transportation and parking. As a member of one of more than 1,000 BIDs across the country, you have unique access to these supplemental services supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the 80-block BID.

As we look forward to 2023, DSP continues to evaluate the way visitors, residents and employees interact, live, work and visit the BID in a post-COVID era. While the pandemic has impacted every area, downtown has faced unique challenges. Like many urban centers across the country, new development and significant levels of homelessness have brought tremendous change to the area. Yet, downtown Spokane is resilient, and we continue to evaluate and adjust BID services to respond to challenges and position ourselves to seize opportunities.

The DSP staff work 7-days-a-week to maintain a dynamic and safe district where you can work, live, shop and recreate. Your 2022 BID assessment was critical to focusing on this mission. Some of the notable activities your assessment supported this past year include:

**Keeping downtown safe and clean.**

- Security Ambassadors provided 2,383 citizens assists, responded to 2,342 calls for service and made 3,315 merchant and business contacts.
- Hospitality Ambassador coverage was expanded on weekends and evenings.
- Clean Team members collected over 4,676 bags of trash and removed 4,541 graffiti tags, maintained 190 garden planters, and added 28 new hanging garden baskets to enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Regular cleaning of downtown viaducts continued with a focus on coordination with city code to address ongoing hot spots.
- A new full time Social Outreach Ambassador position was launched in Q4 to focus on connecting individuals with housing, services and supports.

**Elevating the issues affecting downtown.**

- The first comprehensive survey of BID ratepayers was completed to inform vital decisions and policies for improving the experiences of workers, residents, and visitors in the BID.
- The first downtown Point in Time count was completed to establish baseline information to help the unhoused populations in the area.
- Education continued around policies, development and funding that support vibrant, safe and welcoming streets and public places.

- MORE NEXT PAGE -

### **Enhancing business support services.**

- Updates were made weekly to the DowntownSpokane.org website to keep the online business directory, parking information and event listings current.
- The “Spokane is Downtown” podcast launched to showcase arts, culture and the individuals and businesses making their impact in downtown.
- The “Spokane is Downtown” marketing campaign continued to highlight local and small businesses within in the BID each month.
- A unique “Back to Downtown” campaign launched in the fall with a focus on the downtown workforce and their support of downtown businesses to keep our community on the path towards recovery and reopening.

### **Expanding programming and events.**

- Events and activations on Wall St. were revived to increase foot traffic and visitors to downtown, including First Fridays, Food Truck Fridays, Sunday Art Mart and Fall Fest.
- A new monthly summer concert series, Live by 5, captured mid-week audiences from May – August in the heart of downtown.
- Four alley pop-up events engaged the community to envision activated alleyways and provide feedback.
- Five cultural event grants were awarded to community organizations to support events in downtown that honor the history and traditions of our city’s diverse communities.
- Ongoing financial support of Spokane Arts helped to repair murals and support placement of new iconic art in public places around the BID.

Learn more about the BID, our services and your BID Ratepayer Advisory Board representatives at [www.downtownspokane.org/ratepayers](http://www.downtownspokane.org/ratepayers).

Thank you for investing in downtown Spokane and your continued support.

Sincerely,



Mark Howard, Downtown Resident  
2022 Chair | Business Improvement District



Emilie Cameron  
President & CEO | Downtown Spokane Partnership